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THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL



Counsellor

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

July, 1964

DISTRIBUTE \$16,500,000 THIS MONTH

CHEQUES FOR 361 MUNICIPALITIES

UNCONDITIONAL SHARING

A total of \$16,500,000 is being mailed during July to local authorities in Alberta. This amount was appropriated for the current fiscal year to be distributed under The Municipalities Assistance Act and may be used "for the reduction of municipal, school or hospital taxes or . . . for any other purpose within the powers of the municipality".

Municipalities on the list for the current year number 361. Changes from the last year's total of 359 are accounted for by the incorporation of four villages and the reorganization of Alberta's improvement districts. Effective January 1, 1964, I.D. No. 137 became a part of I.D. No. 128 and part of I.D. No. 8 was amalgamated with I.D. No. 10. This latter change left I.D. No. 8 as being comprised wholly of Waterton National Park which receives its share of the total under a separate category.

The current appropriation brings to \$162,951,166 the total municipal assistance grants distributed from Provincial revenues during the past fifteen years.

A comparison of the totals for the various types of administrative units this year and last, together with the number of units of each type, is as follows:

	1963		1964
Cities (10)	\$6,467,721.55	(10)	\$7,291,376.93
Towns (91)	2,026,513.41	(91)	2,171,910.94
Villages (158)	528,490.17	(162)	569,945.44
Counties (23)	2,847,008.94	(26)	3,509,475.52
M.D.'s (25)	2,527,438.21	(22)	2,304,252.96
I.D.'s (47)	464,746.31	(45)	495,234.57
Special Areas (1)	77,679.21	(1)	85,064.07
S.D.'s in Parks (4)	60,402.20	(4)	65,739.57
Totals (359)	\$15,000,000.00	(361)	\$16,500,000.00

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FIRST FOR PROVINCE

ASSESSING OFFICERS MEET

After four full days of panel discussions, speeches, questions and comments, members of the Canadian Association of Assessing Officers and the Alberta Assessors' Association dispersed on the morning of June 27 to their homes throughout Alberta and across Canada. Held in Edmonton's Macdonald Hotel June 23 to 26, the joint conference was attended by representative assessors from eight Canadian provinces, as well as from centres as far distant as Whitehorse and Houston, Texas.

Conference chairman for the provincial association conference which occupied the first two days was D.E. Mills, Chief Provincial Assessor, DMA, and during the past year President of the Alberta Assessors' Association. At its opening session, the national group elected J.B. Laidlaw as conference chairman. Mr. Laidlaw is Alberta's Assessment Commissioner and served the Canadian Association of Assessing Officers as President during 1963-64.

At business meetings held during the conference, Wm. P. Anderson, Assessor, County of Halifax, was named President of the CAAO for 1964-65, with J.A. MacNab, City Assessor of Saskatoon, becoming Vice President of the organization. G.J. Lettner, Toronto, replaces J.P. Coombe of Scarborough as Secretary-Treasurer while the Alberta directors for the ensuing year are J.E. Cook, County (To Page 8)

BANFF COURSE SETS RECORD

● FOUR HONORED BY SECRETARIES' ASSOCIATION

Honorary memberships in the Alberta Association of Municipal District Secretary-Treasurers were awarded four men long prominent in municipal circles during the 26th Refresher Course held at the Banff School of Fine Arts June 8, 9 and 10. In making the surprise announcement, President J.C. Masson said the Association "is proud to call these men our friends."

Those so honored were J.M. McKay, President of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties; A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs; Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector; W.D. Isbister, Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector. The awards, accompanied by framed certificates, were made possible by an amendment to the Association constitution approved at the business meeting on June 8.

At the business meeting also secretary-treasurers returned unchanged the Association executive for another term. Officers for 1964-65 are J.C. Masson, President; Rudy Magneson, Vice President; J.B. Ludwig, W. Leskiw, Directors. Not up for re-election this year Directors John Skuba and Frank Martin. Guy Tomilson is Past President while Gordon King continues as Secretary-Treasurer.

Attendance at the School for this year's course was the largest on record, according to Don Bancroft, Supervisor of the Public Administration Division, who represented the University's Department of Extension during the municipal course and the course for school secretaries which followed. In welcoming the municipal officials and councillors to the School, Mr. Bancroft said he found (To Page 7)

PREPARE FOR OIL SANDS DEVELOPMENT

NORTH FORT MADE NEW TOWN

Fort McMurray, 230 miles northeast of Edmonton, became a New Town on June 30th, 1964, it was recently announced by Frank Byrne, Secretary of the Provincial Planning Board. The Town will now be added to the growing list of New Towns where emergent conditions created by rapid development have warranted their establishment. A Board of Administrators has been appointed by the Executive Council with C.H. Peden, Fort McMurray businessman as Chairman together with W.D. Isbister, Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector, and J.N. Polonuk, Senior Administrative Officer, Provincial Planning Branch, as the two other members.

The initial population of the New Town of Fort McMurray is expected to reach some 4500 on completion of the projected oil sand plant. Great Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. has already commenced site improvements and it is anticipated that construction of the huge processing plant will be commenced prior to September. A highway is presently under construction to the Town and this will connect with a bridge over the Athabasca River to the plant site.

The history of Fort McMurray dates from 1790 when the old North-West Company established the Fort of the Forks at the confluence of the Athabasca and the Clearwater Rivers. The Fort was rebuilt about 1875 by the Hudsons Bay Company and renamed Fort McMurray. Potential of the oil sands now about to be developed has been known for some time, but it is only within recent years that technological advances have led to the present proposals for a vast development program for the sands.

THE

SECOND

PAGE . . .

SPEAKING of HOUSES

What is it you guard with fastened doors? Have you peace, the quiet urge that reveals your power?

Have you remembrances, the glimmering arches that span the summits of the mind?

Have you beauty, that leads the heart from things fashioned of wood and stone to the holy mountain?

Tell me, have you these in your houses?

Or have you only comfort, and the lust for comfort, that stealthy thing that enters the house a guest, and then becomes a host, and then a master?

o Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet

NOTED AT BANFF

Not many will deny that the three-day conference type of study course fits well into the broad program which is aimed primarily at improving municipal and school administration in Alberta. Beginning with certificate courses by correspondence and regular seminars for anyone interested or involved in local government affairs, the refresher program at Banff is an opportunity . . . in the midst of some of the beautiful scenery on earth . . . to brush up on the job and return to it with new knowledge and enthusiasm.

Though only tenuously related to the municipal field, Senator Cameron's remarks about the pending applications for three bank charters merit close attention of all thoughtful citizens. Nationally as well as municipally. As the Senator pointed out, one of the three (The Bank of Western Canada) has the ring of big skies and far horizons but if allowed will be controlled by "three cowboys from Bay Street". And according to the Senator for an investment totalling \$90,000.

As a possible change of pace from speakers completing their addresses, sitting down and waiting for questions, it could prove stimulating for him or Mr. Chairman to fire a few questions in the other direction. Why not? A kind of crossfire might help gauge how refreshing the subject matter really is, and who in fact knows more about it.

Noted during the opening session were eyebrows raised at the coal black shutters on the windows of Classroom 307, no doubt reminiscent to some of blackouts during the war. It transpired the shutters were meant not to bridle our attention within the room but to brighten the picture slated for the evening showing.

A star for Don Bancroft's use of a packet of cigarettes to analogize the width, length and height of the tax base. And to the chap who capped it by observing that taxes and cigarettes alike present areas of danger still to be explored. Come to think of it, we've heard of king-sized taxes. Wonder if they could be filtered.

We like the admonition on a nature-trail sign: Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints.

And another one, this on a slightly battered Volkswagen: Be nice to us. We're rich tourists.

Some of the addresses delivered at Banff reminded us of lectures we listened to as a youngster under big olden Chataqua tents. (Does anyone remember them?) It took wit and skill and eloquence to hold an audience sitting on plank benches. In a tent. On a hot day. But the old timers did it. Lectures seem to be less fashionable now, maybe because they can't compete with television drama. QED: Television dramas are more compelling than wit and eloquence. Even more so than plank benches.

People we talked with said they enjoyed Dr. Baird's address at

the banquet. (We hope to publish much of it later). Without having to agree with every thought-provoking argument advanced the next morning by Professor Pocklington, we'd say they enjoyed his address also . . . and especially the spirited discussion that followed it. Nice work gentlemen.

We're bound to say, however, we thought two or three points were given less than their proper weighting. One: The \$16,500,000 unarmarked and unconditional share (among \$174,000,000 total of our money) which is being distributed among local authorities this year. Another: the undeniable sensitivity of Alberta's senior government to resolutions presented to it by municipal people.

Referring to the need for partisanship in municipal politics, we've all heard tell of some mighty strong expressions of divergent views so to speak among local councillors. And finally, if as was implied, the idea of a mandate is a shadowy thing, we begin to wonder why elections at all.

Thinking of Banff we come up with such words and phrases as many-splendored; exhilarating; enchanting . . . even in raw rain . . . and so on. But before we get carried away, let Senator Cameron say something. In his "Campus in the Clouds" he tells why the Banff School has grown:

"It has grown (he writes) because people find in the Banff setting the gift of beauty and the gift of tranquility. They gain perspective, inspiration and humility, and a sense of human comradeship that is good for the soul."

Are we listening?

THE CHANGING SCENE

- COUNTY of LETHBRIDGE NO. 26
Change of Address. 214-13th Street South,
- VILLAGE of BARONS
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. T.J. Schiebout
- TOWN of BLAIRMORE
Secretary-Treasurer H.E. Atkinson
- VILLAGE of BON ACCORD - Incorporation Date - Eff. Jan. 1/64
Mayor N.A. Chubb
Secretary-Treasurer A.J. Jenkins
Phone No. 298-3560
- TOWN of GRAND CENTRE
Acting Secretary-Treasurer . . Mrs. M.A. Mechefske
- TOWN of HANNA
Secretary-Treasurer S.F. Wright
- VILLAGE of LONGVIEW
Mayor R. Whenham
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. G. Killoran
- VILLAGE of MILO
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. S. Peterson
- COUNTY of NEWELL NO. 4
Reeve J. Hajash, Brooks
- VILLAGE of WARNER
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. P. Hedberg

THIS MONTH

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The Alberta Municipal Counsellor
Department of Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta



"... INCREASES TO MATCH FUTURE GROWTH PROVIDED FOR"

THE MUNICIPALITIES ASSISTANCE ACT

BY T.D. BRUCE, DMA STATISTICIAN

AN EXPLANATION OF THE FORMULA USED TO DETERMINE THE DISTRIBUTION
OF UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS AMONG ALBERTA'S LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Since its inception in 1951, the purpose of this Act has been to provide a measure of unconditional assistance to municipal councils that may be expended by each council for any purpose within the powers of the municipality.

The present Act, passed in 1958, states that the total amount provided each year by the Legislature for this purpose shall be distributed as grants allotted in such a way as to "establish in an equitable manner the need of each municipality for economic assistance".

This poses a problem since a grant must be provided for each city, town, village, county, municipal district and special area in an amount that will satisfy this quotation in view of the fact that as classes these municipalities have greatly different backgrounds of need for financial assistance.

Various methods of distribution were tried and discarded. Arbitrary allotment of individual grants or amounts by classes is indefensible as to equity and need. Various other combinations of pertinent factors did not prove satisfactory. A per capita allotment although equitable does not provide for need. A rather complex formula was, therefore, decided on that could be applied to each municipality regardless of class and which produced the desired results.

THREE FACTORS:

The formula is based on three factors: (a) Population - to provide the basic unit of distribution. (b) Per capita assessment based on the Equalized Assessment - to provide an equitable measure for economic assistance. (3) Density of population per township based on the area of each municipality - to measure the need for economic assistance.

These factors are employed in a complicated calculation to provide grants that are most simply described as per capita grants equalized by the "ability to pay" as measured by the per capita assessment and "need" as measured by the density of population.

Population requires no explanation. It is established in accordance with the last Dominion census or a later census taken by the municipality as reported to the Department by way of an affidavit.

Per capita assessment indicates the wealth of a municipality or its ability to raise money. Thus a municipality with a per capita assessment of \$500 requires more assistance than a municipality with a per capita assessment of \$1,000 and the municipality with the largest per capita assessment requires the least assistance. To measure this requirement each municipality is allotted a credit in the number of units needed to raise it to the standard of the largest per capita assessment and if the largest per capita assessment turns out to be \$2,000, the municipality with \$500 receives a credit for 1,500 units and the municipality with \$1,000 receives a credit for 1,000 units.

WEIGHTED FOR DENSITY:

An analysis of municipal financial statements will show that the per capita costs of required services such as administration, fire and police protection, public works, etc. is more costly in a sparsely settled area than in those more densely populated. The following table is used to weight each of the above mentioned units to give recognition to this fact:

- 1 to 50 people per township weighted by 4
- 51 to 100 people per township weighted by 3 1/2
- 101 to 150 people per township weighted by 3
- 151 to 200 people per township weighted by 2 1/2
- 201 to 250 people per township weighted by 2
- 251 to 300 people per township weighted by 1 1/2
- 301 or more people per township weighted by 1

To illustrate: If for example a municipality with a credit of 1,500 units has a population of 201 to 250 people per township it receives a weighting of 2 and its credit becomes 3,000 units. Or if the municipality with a credit of 1,000 units has a population of 101 to 150 people per township it receives a weighting of 3 and its credit also becomes 3,000 units. The resulting calculations have thus produced a per capita assessment index of 3,000 units for each municipality.

The next step is to take the population of each municipality and apply it to its assessment index to produce the index by which it will share in the total available for distribution. If each of the two municipalities has a population of 1,000 people, they will receive equal grants based on a total index of their per capita assessment index times their population (1,000 x 3,000) or 3,000,000 units. Thus each municipality has received a per capita grant weighted by its per capita assessment and density of population.

One quarter of the total amount available for distribution is allotted by way of a straight per capita grant to assure each municipality of a minimum amount of assistance. The remaining three quarters is distributed by way of each municipality's index. Thus each grant is calculated as follows:

- (a) The municipality's population times one quarter
of the fund

The total population of all municipalities
plus

- (b) The municipality's index times three quarters
of the fund

The total index of all municipalities

A TYPICAL EXAMPLE:

The following example will serve to illustrate the calculation of the 1964 grant to a typical municipality.

Total Fund	\$ 16,500,000
Total Population	1,410,500
Total Assessment Index	40,009,642,807
Largest per capita Assessment	24,946
Municipality's Population	5,102
Municipality's Equalized Assessment	10,061,372
Municipality's area	43.27 townships

The municipality's population and equalized assessment produce a per capita assessment of 1,972.

The municipality's population and area produce a figure of 118 persons per township which from the weighting table indicates a weighting of 3.

Thus, the municipality's total index for grant purposes is 24,946 less 1,972 or 22,974 times 3 times the population of 5,102 or 251,640,044 units and the grant equals:

(a) $\frac{5,102 \times 4,125,000}{1,410,500}$	= \$ 14,920.77
(b) $\frac{351,640,044 \times 12,375,000}{40,009,642,807}$	= 108,762.42
Total Grant	= \$ 123,683.19

The 1964 appropriation of \$16,500,000 is \$1,500,000 more than the annual \$15,000,000 appropriated from this purpose over the last six years and the Government has provided for increases in this amount to match the future growth of the Province by an amendment to the Act which states that succeeding appropriations shall be an amount equal to twelve dollars times the total population of the Province as established in the previous year pursuant to Section 4 of the Act.

All Councils and Secretary-Treasurers should pay particular attention to the amended Section 4 of the Act. The date for completing the annual municipal census has been advanced to the twenty-fifth day of January commencing with the year 1965. The result of this census must be reported to the Department by way of an affidavit on or before the thirty-first day of January thus making the current amount of individual grants available for municipal budgets. ●

THE PROBLEM INVOLVED

The task of working out a satisfactory system of provincial assistance to municipalities is a difficult one. One problem is to find a basis of distribution which will be equitable as between the various municipalities, will adequately protect the provincial taxpayer, will be reasonably simple from an administrative point of view and will obtain the desired end. It is doubtful if any one single basis can accomplish the varied purposes desired.

o Canadian Municipal Government by Crawford

SUMMARY OF '64 LEGISLATION

BY BRUCE RAMSAY
CHIEF MUNICIPAL INSPECTOR

(Continued From Last Issue)

The Town and Village Act

Section 23:

Section 23 is amended to provide that the provisions of any Act applying or having reference to a village shall apply to a summer village accordingly.

Section 46:

An amendment to section 46 changes the date of the first meeting of council from the fifth to the fourth Monday following nomination day.

Section 57:

Section 57 has been amended by adding the words "and has signed a waiver of notice of the special meeting".

Section 99a:

A new section 99a permits the council by by-law to contract for or otherwise institute a scheme of insurance for insuring all or any employees against sickness, accident or death. Any such scheme may require contributions on the part of the employee and on the part of the town or village.

Sections 100, 101, 101a, 102, 103 and 106 are amended to change the reference to the first meeting from the "fifth Monday" to the "fourth Monday".

Section 109 (1):

Section 109 subsection (1) has been amended by adding a new clause (i) which will permit a councillor to act on a board and receive a gratuity or allowance for his services without disqualifying him from retaining his seat on the council.

Section 273:

Several amendments have been made to section 273 for the purpose of clarification.

Section 297:

Section 297 has been revised and moved to a more appropriate place in the Act as section 283a.

Section 321a (1) and (4):

Section 321a subsection (1) has been amended to reduce the time from three months to one month for an owner to remedy the condition of an unoccupied building. The time for sending the notice of the order by the council in subsection (4) has been reduced from one month to two weeks.

Section 329a:

Section 329a has been amended to permit the licensing of all business except transient traders.

Section 347:

Section 347 has been amended to permit the council to acquire or drill a gas well. This amendment is effective January 1, 1964.

Section 347a:

Section 347a has been amended to provide that in the case of disputes in connection with rates, tolls, or charges for public utilities outside the boundaries of a town or village such disputes shall be submitted to the Public Utilities Board.

Section 353:

Section 353 has been amended to permit the council to include such sums as may be required to meet the contributions to a special reserve trust fund in the estimates. This amendment is effective January 1, 1964.

Section 368:

Section 368 has been amended to permit the levying of taxes

after September 1st on assessments made after that date on property which should have been assessed and was not assessed.

Section 387:

Section 387 has been amended to require the secretary-treasurer to notify the owner of property by registered mail at least fourteen days prior to the date of the intention of the town or village to collect rentals from the tenant to apply on arrears of taxes.

Section 396:

Section 396 has been amended to include gravelling as a local improvement.

Section 412:

Section 412 has been amended to permit the raising of the cost of an extension of a system of water mains without obtaining the approval of the proprietary electors.

Section 434:

Section 434 has been amended to permit the issuance of debentures up to six years instead of four years, after the final passing of the by-law.

Section 451a:

A new section 451a permits the setting up of a special reserve trust fund for the purpose of a specific future capital expenditure and for the setting up of a special reserve trust fund account. If such funds are proposed to be used for some other project, other than for the one it was set up for, it must be advertised and approved if necessary in accordance with the provisions of section 298. This amendment is effective January 1, 1964.

Section 479:

Section 479 has been rewritten to delete the compulsory provision that a judge make an inquiry upon the passing of a resolution by a council and to provide that the Attorney General may appoint a judge or some other suitable person to make the inquiry.

The Municipal District Act

Section 68 (6):

Section 68 subsection (6) has been amended to extend the time for mailing the financial statement to the ratepayers to February 20th.

Section 82a:

A new section 82a permits the council by by-law to institute a scheme of insurance for the purpose of insuring all or any employees against sickness, accident or death. Such scheme of insurance may require such contributions on the part of the employee and on the part of the municipality as the council may direct.

Section 85a:

A new section 85a sets out the rules for determining the residence qualifications of councillors.

Section 96:

Section 96 has been amended to change the date of the Annual meeting to the first Saturday of March.

Section 248 (4):

Section 248 subsection (4) has been amended to permit the purchase of land for industrial purposes from the Province of Alberta.

Section 250:

Section 250 has been repealed.

Section 255:

Section 255 has been amended to remove some duplication with the provisions of The Expropriation Procedure Act.

Section 274a:

Section 274a has been amended to permit the levy of a special tax in a rural fire protection area to cover expenditures for capital costs and operating costs.

Section 286e (2):

Section 286e subsection (2) has been amended to reduce the time from three months to one month for the owner to remedy the condition of an unoccupied building. A new subsection (4a) has been added to permit the costs (if any) to the municipality to be charged against the owner and provides that such costs may be charged against

the land as taxes. Subsection (5) has been amended to reduce the notice to the owner, from one month to two weeks.

Section 331:

Section 331 has been amended to permit the council to include in the budget provision for funds to be placed in a reserve trust fund for future capital expenditures. This amendment is effective as and from January 1, 1964.

Section 355:

Section 355 has been revised for the purpose of clarification.

Section 369:

Section 369 has been amended to require the secretary-treasurer to notify the owner of land by registered mail of the intention to collect the rent from the tenant. Such notice must be not less than fourteen days prior to the date on which such action is proposed to be taken.

Section 382:

Section 382 is amended to provide that the passing of the by-law providing for debentures shall be proceeded with in the same manner as set out in section 251. This section has also been amended to permit an increase of general debts from five per cent to twenty per cent of the assessed value of lands, buildings and improvements.

Section 382a:

Section 382a has been amended by adding the words "if such a vote is required".

Section 404a:

A new section 404a permits the council to pass a by-law for the formation of a special reserve trust fund for the purpose of a specific future capital expenditure. This amendment is effective as and from January 1, 1964.

Section 425 (2):

Section 425 subsection (2) has been amended to increase the distance from one hundred feet to one hundred and twenty-five feet.

Section 429 (2):

Section 429 subsection (2) is amended by striking out the word "it" and substituting the words "the by-law authorizing the agreement". This amendment is effective as and from January 1, 1964.

The Assessment Appeal Board Act

As the title of the Supervisor of Assessments has been changed to Chief Provincial Assessor, sections 2 and 14 have been amended accordingly.

Section 16 has been amended to delete the reference to assessments made by an inspector of assessments as the right of such person to make assessments was withdrawn from section 9 of The Municipalities Assessment and Equalization Act.

The Cultural Development Act

A new section 14 provides for the establishment of recreational areas in a single municipality or part of a single municipality. It also permits agreements with other municipalities to provide joint recreation programs and joint recreation boards. The section also permits the council by by-law to levy a special tax within the recreation area. Such a by-law shall be advertised and if ten per cent of the proprietary electors petition the council for a vote, the by-law shall be submitted to the proprietary electors in the recreation area for approval.

The Electric Power and Pipe Line Assessment Act

A new Section 5 (5) authorizes the Minister to establish by Regulation the average depth for certain groups of wells in pools when it is considered that the normal average pool depth does not produce an equitable assessment. Under this proposal the Minister will set forth by Regulation the average depth by township of all the pool wells situated in the area of the designated pool.

An amendment to Section 20 of The Act provides authority for the Minister to pass the Regulations to determine the average depth by townships of wells in the pool as outlined above.

The Exemptions Act

Section 2 of the Act is amended to provide that tractors required for agricultural purposes or in a trade or calling and mobile homes, if the value does not exceed three thousand dollars, are exempt from seizure under any writ of execution.

SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

FOR AUGUST

Municipal District Act

Within 5 days after the end of each month the secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(v).

Town and Village Act

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 67(r).

August 10 - Enumerator must submit his list to the secretary on or before this date. Sec. 112(4).

August 15 - Secretary shall prepare, certify and post in his office a copy of the voters list on or before this date. Sec. 113 and 115.

August 16 - Notice of completion of the voters list must be posted in at least six places on or before this date. Sec. 116.

September 1 - On or before this date the secretary-treasurer shall prepare a tax roll and mail tax notices. Sec. 368.

Note: Application for change or addition of names on the voters list must be received by the secretary-treasurer prior to September 6. Sec. 120.

Assessment Act, 1960

August 31 - The council of a town, village, municipal district or county may pass a by-law on or before this date to authorize the assessor to use the current years assessment for the next following year. Sections 16 and 19.

Crown Property Municipal Grants Act

Each municipality is reminded to make application for grants in lieu of taxes on Crown properties as set out in the above noted act.

Tax Recovery Act

August 1 - Not later than August 1st, Land Titles Office shall notify registered owners, etc. of any caveat. Sec. 7.

The Local Authorities Board Act

Section 69:

Section 69 has been re-written to make it clear that local authorities do not normally require approval of the Board for temporary borrowings.

Section 96:

Section 96 has been added to make it clear that controlled local authorities do require Board approval of all borrowings.

Section 120 (1) and (4):

(a) as to subsection (1) to allow an owner of a parcel of land, irrespective of its acreage, to apply for separation from an urban municipality.

(b) as to subsection (4) to make it clear that the Board may direct the method of assessment of improvements as well as land, where a separation petition is refused.

Section 125:

Section 125 is amended to provide the Board with authority to annex lands to a City under same conditions as presently apply to annexations to a town or village under the Town and Village Act.

Section 126:

Section 126 is re-written to make it clear that a municipality may apply to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for aid if it suffers financial hardship brought about by an annexation order.

All other amendments in Bill 106 are minor and generally rearrange sections in the Act which, through effluxion of time, had become disarranged.

The Land Titles Act

A new section 49a provides that where a writ of execution is presented for registration it must show the name of the person and his street address sufficient for the purpose of giving notice by mail to such person.

Section 91 dealing with the registration of subdivision plans was re-enacted in 1963 as one of the consequential amendments to The Planning Act. This section has been rewritten for the purpose of clarification and to conform to amendments to section 24 of The Planning Act.

(To Page 6)

SUMMARY OF '64 LEGISLATION

(From Page 5)

The Libraries Act

Form B has been struck out. This removes a contradiction between section 17 and the content of Form B. Section 17 contemplates that the by-law for the establishment of a library by a municipality would be submitted to the proprietary electors in the same manner as any money by-law.

The Farm Purchase Credit Act

Section 13 is amended to permit the Minister, on the application of the council of a county or municipal district, to appoint the council as a committee under the Act in place of the presently constituted committee.

By an amendment to section 18, the Board may not grant assistance where the value of the land to be purchased together with the value of the land already owned is, in the opinion of the Board, in excess of forty thousand dollars. Previously the limit set was thirty thousand dollars.

Section 28 is amended to permit a purchaser to assign an agreement for sale to a treasury branch or chartered bank as security for a loan therefrom.

The Grazing Lease Taxation Act, 1960

A new section 3a provides that where land is held under a grazing lease, the land and the interest of the lessee are exempt from assessment and taxation.

The Municipalities Assessment and Equalization ActSection 2:

Section 2 is amended to provide for inclusion in the equalized assessment of a municipality, the assessable interest of a person who is the purchaser or lessee of exempt property (Crown property).

Section 30:

This amendment provides a new Section under the terms of which the Minister will be authorized to make regulations governing the procedure to be employed for the purpose of equalizing assessments.

The Municipal and Provincial Properties Valuation ActSection 8 (1):

Under this section the Lieutenant Governor in Council may presently provide that certain classes of municipally owned property shall become liable to assessment and taxation notwithstanding certain provisions in The City Act and The Assessment Act. However, clause (o) of subsection (1) of section 544 of The City Act exempts all property belonging to a city and is thereby in conflict with present section 8 of The Municipal and Provincial Properties Valuation Act. The proposed amendment is intended to rectify this difficulty.

The Municipal and School Administration ActSections 2 and 7:

Sections 2 and 7 have been amended for clarification purposes.

Sections 10 (5):

Section 10 subsection (5) clause (b) has been amended by striking out the word "fifth" and substituting the word "fourth".

The Nursing Homes Act

This is a new Act which will establish a nursing home program and will provide for the giving of financial assistance.

Section 3:

Section 3 authorizes the councils of the included municipalities in an auxiliary hospital district to apply to the Minister of Health for the establishment of the district as a nursing home district.

The Planning Act

The amendments to the Planning Act, 1963 this year are mainly of a minor nature, mostly dealing with the procedural matters. There has been no change as to principle.

The definition of "subdivision" has been slightly expanded at the request of the Land Titles Offices.

Section (18a):

A new section (18a) has been added which clears up a heretofore controversial matter as to whether two parcels are created by sub-

division when a "road plan" or a "pipe-line right of way" for instance, diagonally intersects a quarter section, formerly covered by one title. The meaning of this amendment is to indicate that the registration of such a road plan or right of way does not create the act of subdivision of the quarter section.

Section (23a):

Another new section (23a) has been added to ensure that in any very old registered plan which created undersized lots at that time, under "grouped" titles, the Land Titles Office cannot issue separate titles to individual undersized lots without the consent of the subdivision approving authority. This section will therefore prevent the development of houses, for instance, on 25' frontage lots in the case of Calgary, and 33' frontage lots in the case of Edmonton, except under very special circumstances.

Section 25:

Section 25 has been expanded to include a yardstick for local authorities to estimate the value of land in lieu of reserves, which normally go to these authorities upon the act of subdivision. The yardstick, which will be universal throughout the province, states that the value of the land is to be 2 1/2 the assessed value of the land per acre according to the 1959 Assessment Manual, Alberta Regulation 142/60.

Section 137:

Section 137 has been rewritten to strengthen the machinery by which a local authority can insist on inspecting any property within which it is suspected some illegal development has occurred. The amendment now makes it mandatory for a district judge, in his discretion, rather than a magistrate, to issue the requisite order to enter the property and inspect.

Lastly the fiscal year of the Regional Planning Commissions has been changed to coincide with the fiscal year of local authorities, i.e. January 1st to December 31st.

The Police Act

Section 17 has been rewritten and provides in part that no village or municipal district shall supply a municipal constable with, and no municipal constable for a village or municipal district shall wear, a uniform that is not of a type, material and colour approved by the Attorney General. It also provides that no municipality or municipal constable shall use or display an insignia or badge unless the insignia or badge has been approved by the Attorney General.

The Provincial Parks Act, 1964

This Act replaces and revises The Provincial Parks Act, R.S.A., 1955. The provisions concerning municipalities remain much the same as in the previous Act.

The Public Health Act

An amendment to section 19 now requires all municipalities to obtain approval of a proposed water or sewer system by the Provincial Board of Health before the money is borrowed to install the systems.

The School ActSection 294 and 298:

An amendment to sections 284 and 298 require the Board of a district to complete its budget on or before March 31st instead of April 30th.

Section 287a:

A new section 287a sets out the procedure required to determine separate school supporters upon the establishment of a separate school district.

Section 304:

An amendment to section 304 extends the time for appealing against the estimates of a school board from thirty days to sixty days.

The Seizures Act

A new section 24a sets out the procedure for obtaining possession of a mobile home under seizure. If the occupant fails to deliver up possession of the mobile home, the creditor may apply to a judge who may make an order directing the occupant to deliver up possession.

The Municipalities Assistance Act

Section 4 has been amended to provide that in future years the affidavit setting out the population and such other relevant information shall be forwarded to the Minister on or before January 31st. If a census is to be taken it shall be taken before the 25th of January in the year in which the census return is submitted to the Minister.

* * * *

Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever.

o Thomas Mann

BANFF COURSE SETS RECORD
(From Page 1)

it most gratifying to note the continued growth of interest in the courses offered, and saw the need for larger accommodation for general sessions next year.

Welcoming municipal people to the School also was Senator Donald Cameron, School Director, who expressed his interest in the taxation theme chosen for this year. Having returned from Elliott Lake, Ontario, Senator Cameron said the realistic view was for no reduction in taxes at this time. He described some of the efforts now being considered to salvage the 750 million dollar uranium centre which he said included conversion to a tourist centre or perhaps as an eastern school of fine arts similar to the Banff School. The Senator said a total of 19,078 people had registered for courses at Banff in 1963. Stressing the need for trained municipal personnel, he said he was pleased to be associated in this way with the local scene.

REVIEW OF LEGISLATION:

In his review of new and amended municipal legislation, Deputy Minister A.W. Morrison said The Municipalities' Assistance Act allowed for an increase in unconditional grants with the total sum now set at \$12 per capita times Alberta's population of the previous year. On this basis he said the 1964 total was \$16,500,000, while next year's total would be \$16,831,968.

Mr. Morrison outlined in some detail the new method of providing town and village representation on school committees under The County Act. He said thirteen of the municipal districts remaining had boundaries coterminous with their school divisions and suggested these might readily convert to counties. "I commend it to you," he said.

Reporting on the current Winter Works program, W.D. Isbister, who has been processing applications from Alberta municipalities, said the program just concluded was somewhat smaller than last year's, but has provided 450,000 man days of work. He warned against the broad use of overtime, pointing out that it defeated the purpose of the program which was to provide opportunities for employment to as many individuals as possible. He said he wasn't sure the program was going to be repeated next winter, and thanked the municipalities for their spirit of cooperation in past programs.

F.G. Stewart, Deputy Provincial Treasurer, addressed the urban section of the school Monday afternoon on the Municipal Development Loan Act. Following up a letter which he had sent to all municipalities, Mr. Stewart outlined steps to be followed in applying to CMHC for loans under the federal Act. Considerable interest was shown in the feature under which forgiveness of 25% of the principal sum is granted where the project is completed on time with Mr. Stewart pointing out the cancellation served to reduce the interest rate to quite a low figure. He asked those who intended to take advantage of the provisions of the fund to let him know not later than the end of June.

During the first afternoon session W.D. Hough of the Workmen's Compensation Board discussed a draft report form with the rural section and showed a film on the treatment of injured workmen that evening. The evening was followed by what was called a seminar on "the automation of repetitive data writing as applied to municipal administration." Arranged by officials of the Addressograph-Multigraph Company, the seminar directed attention to the possibility of reducing the work load in municipal offices by use of a machine that will record repetitively up to 5,000 words or 30,000 figures a minute.

FOUR PANEL DISCUSSIONS:

The total tax function was examined in four stages during day-long Tuesday sessions. The study was conducted by four panels each consisting of three competent officials who dealt in turn with the tax base; the tax levy; discounts, penalties and collections and finally arrears and tax recovery procedures.

Those on the first panel were D.A. Bancroft, T.L. Theroux (reading J. A. Clark's paper) and Guy Tomilson who discussed the aims and uses of assessment equalization. J.E. Mulloy, Assistant Professor, Department of Extension, was chairman of the second panel and dealt with budgeting controls. Mr. Mulloy was followed by panelists Warren Jones and Frank Martin. Listing several types of requisitioning bodies, Mr. Martin said local councils had little control over much of their expenditure. He wondered if "we are headed in the right direction" and concluded by repeating Senator Cameron's suggestion to "do something - don't wait for a royal commission". Mr. Jones dealt with striking the mill rate. He said a secretary-treasurer's idea of Utopia was a district in which municipal, school and hospital boundaries are co-terminous.

Col. Cormack, who is retiring in August after a long and not-

Attendance at Banff . . .					
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION COURSE					
	County	M.D.	Town	Village	Total
Secretary-Treasurers and Assistants.	.39	23	51	25	138
Councillors.	.36	13	9	1	59
Other Delegates and Representatives.					11
Department of Municipal Affairs					8
University of Alberta.					6
Other Speakers and Visitors					3
Total Attendance					225

able association with the Department of Extension and the Banff School, opened the Tuesday afternoon session with a brief address. He said the large attendance was indicative of respect for local government and of the growing importance of local affairs in the Province.

After papers delivered by W.D. Isbister, Wm. Bell and J.B. Ludwig, discussion centred around the relative merits of "the promise" of discounts and "the threat" of penalties. Mr. Isbister thought discounts might well be discontinued and Mr. Bell expressed the view that the penalties were more effective, but no decision was reached on the question.

Discussing the problem of arrears and tax recovery, the panelists were Keith Switzer, T.A. Collister and John Skuba. Steps in avoiding loss of title and in handling taxes receivable were reviewed at length and the three men were questioned closely upon completion of their papers.

FINAL SESSION:

Final session of the School featured major addressions by Professor T.C. Pocklington, Assistant Professor of Political Science with the University, and A.M. Brownlee, Q.C., Solicitor for the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. Speaking on the democratic theory and its application to municipal administration, Professor Pocklington wondered if partisan politics should not be carried into the field of local government. He thought the chief concern of electors was for honesty and efficiency of administration and felt they could usually agree upon the standard of services required. In his view the people "have a right to be wrong". During the question period certain of Professor Pocklington's statements were challenged by his colleague, Dr. R. Baird, who had addressed the banquet the previous meeting, and at this time Professor Pocklington expressed himself in favor of a larger share of provincial revenues going to municipal authorities. "It is our money, rather than theirs," he declared.

Various types of "Hold Harmless" agreement forms were described at some length by Mr. Brownlee. He said he had drawn up the forms in an effort to protect municipal authorities against damages resulting from sprays and even negligence. He thought a new form of agreement relating to land drainage was also needed.

Referring to The Dower Act, Mr. Brownlee said an amendment might be sought here by which certain procedures could be authorized by the signature of the spouse. This might be sufficient, he suggested, where the land involved constituted no more than 5 to 10 per cent of the total parcel.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS PREPARES

INDUSTRY & RESOURCES BOOK

Information covering almost every aspect of Alberta's economy is contained in a handsome book published in June under authority of Hon. A.R. Patrick, Minister of Industry and Development. Entitled "Alberta Industry and Resources, 1964" the publication was prepared by the Alberta Bureau of Statistics under the direction of D.I. Istvanffy. Consisting of almost 200 pages it concludes with fold-out tables featuring exhaustive surveys of eight Alberta cities covering every conceivable field of economic interest.

In an introduction to the publication Mr. Patrick points out that "a new spirit of confidence in Canada's future is manifest in our industrial leaders." He goes on to say Alberta has had a leading role in our national economic growth and over the past two decades industry in this Province has been "growing and diversifying faster than that of any other section of Canada."

LONG IN THE SERVICE

After more than 32 years of service in municipal affairs, Roy William Hay retired as secretary-treasurer, Municipal District of Minburn No. 72, last December 31. Born at Marvelville near Ottawa on February 13, 1889, Mr. Hay graduated from the Ontario Business College at Bellevue before coming to Alberta in 1910.



The following year Mr. Hay filed on a home-
stead south of Mannville
and farmed for thirty-one
years. In 1914 he re-
turned to Ontario where
he married the former
Myrtle Brunton and on
January 14 last, the res-
pected couple celebra-
ted their golden wedding

anniversary. They have one son Arthur of Edmonton and one 8 year old daughter, Cathy.

Prior to 1932 Mr. Hay was auditor for the M. D. of Buffalo Coulee and also for the M. D. of Battle River. On January 1, 1932, he became secretary-treasurer of the Buffalo Coulee M.D. and when the M.D. of Minburn was formed through the amalgamation of Melberta, Buffalo Coulee, Lake View and Birch Lake Municipalities in 1942, he was appointed assistant secretary-treasurer to the late R. T. Dorward. He assumed the senior post when Mr. Dorward retired in 1954.

In addition to his duties as secretary, Mr. Hay served the town of Mannville for four years as mayor. A lifelong member of Hope Lodge No. 38 A.F. and A.M., he is also a member of the Elks Lodge and O.E.S. and for many years served as a member of the Mannville Hospital Board, first municipal hospital, incidentally, to be established in Alberta.

ENROLMENTS and RESULTS TABULATED

NEW COURSES EXPLORED

Possibility of offering courses in farmland inspection, advanced municipal administration and municipal planning are being explored by officials of the University's Department of Extension, according to D.D. Campbell, Director, and D.A. Bancroft, Supervisor of the Department's Public Administration Division. Reporting to the Main Advisory Committee May 29, Mr. Bancroft said the Department of Agriculture has been asked to hold a three-weeks course in farmland inspection for appraisers at Alberta's Agricultural Colleges.

Tables summarizing enrolments and examination results for the three certificate courses offered during 1963-64 were also discussed by the Committee. Total enrolment for the year was 202 with 153 writing the examinations and 123 obtaining passing grades.

Mr. Campbell told the Committee plans are now being discussed

	MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT				MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION				LOCAL GOVT.	ACC'T'G	ALL COURSES
	1st	2nd	3rd	Total	1st	2nd	3rd	Total			
Total Enrolment	31	34	30	95	21	20	23	64	43		202
Drop-out before May 2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2		4
Registrants not making final payment	2	-	-	2	2	1	1	4	3		9
Eligible to write	28	34	30	92	18	19	22	59	38		189
Eligibles not writing	3	3	2	8	5	5	2	12	16		36
Number Examined	25	31	28	84	13	14	20	47	22		153
Unsuccessful	6	5	3	14	2	1	4	7	9		30
Third Class Mark	13	11	11	35	7	7	10	24	5		64
Second Class Mark	4	14	12	30	4	5	6	15	6		51
First Class Mark	2	1	2	5	-	1	-	1	2		8
Range of Marks	38% - 92%				27% - 81%				30% - 86%		27% - 92%
Average Mark (Mean)	58.9%	62.9%	63.9%	62.1%	58.8%	60.2%	55.0%	57.6%	55.2%		59.7%

ASSESSING OFFICERS MEET
(From Page 1)

of Strathcona;
D.E. Mills, DMA; and George Hughes, Edmonton.

The new executive of the Alberta Assessors' Association is as follows: A.R. Isbister, Director of Field Service, President; Peter Cormack, City Assessor, Calgary, Vice President; P.H. Cordery, DMA, Secretary; and D.A. McTavish, DMA, Treasurer. Directors of the Alberta Association for 1964-65 are A.L. Larson, Lethbridge; George Hughes, Edmonton; P.A. Stonhouse, Medicine Hat; J.E. Cook, County of Strathcona; and V.E. Hurst, Sun Oil, Calgary.

Reflecting the close relationship between assessment and taxation, it was notable that many of the addresses and papers delivered throughout the four-day conference dealt largely with financial problems of municipal administrations. The question of whether or not real property is an adequate base for financing education and municipal services was analyzed in depth and discussed in detail, with the consensus seeming to be that along with real property assessments and taxation, some other form of public finance was necessary.

During the conference the assessor was reminded that although he is not a lawyer, he is a quasi-judicial official and a thorough knowledge of the law, as it affects his profession, is an absolute necessity.

Can assessment practices and procedures be standardized across Canada? This question was discussed by four speakers, each of whom is outstanding in his field, with the result being regarded as desirable with respect for example to pipelines but impracticable as related to railway lines. Striving for such uniformity could be "the greatest work" of the CAAO, according to one speaker.

Commenting on the conference, first of its kind ever held in Alberta, Mr. Laidlaw said he was gratified by the work accomplished. "Many of the delegates told me this was a highly successful meeting", he said. "It was made possible only by the splendid teamwork of all concerned. I am especially pleased that many of our younger assessors had the opportunity of discussing their work with men of experience from other parts of Canada".

Next national conference will be held at Halifax. (P.C.)

by the Department of Extension to institute a series of high level advanced courses for select classes drawn perhaps from larger urban centres in western Canada. In this connection, J.E. Mulloy, Assistant Professor with the Department of Extension, spoke of budgeting methods and finance studies as subjects which might be included in such an advanced course. He also referred to questionnaires which he said were used by the Public Administration Division to determine areas of interest among prospective students.

Discussing the proposed course in planning for municipalities, Mr. Bancroft tabled a brief syllabus illustrating its possible scope. He suggested the planning course when available might be offered as an alternative to the accounting course for completion of the present four-year certificate pattern.

The summary of enrolments and results of examinations written May 2 as tabulated by Mr. Bancroft and Dr. R.E. Baird, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, is shown below: